for marginal decrease in the number of post cards handled during 1997-98. In the case of envelopes, it may be seen that there was a sudden spurb in the traffic during 1997-98. There is sharp increase in the use of competition post card during 1998-99 as compared to that of 1997-98.

Telephone connections to rural post offices in Assam

197. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

whether telephone connections have been provided to all the rural post offices in the state of Assam;

if so, the number of Post Offices yet to be provided with this facility; and

by when this facility is likely to be provided to such post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 336 rural Post Offices in the State of Assam do not have telephone facility,

(c) Telephone connections to the Post Offices not having the same are provided by Telecom authorities subject to the availability of resources.

Electronic exchanges in the district of North Cachar hills of Assam

198. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI CATIONS be pleased to state:

whether the target for installation of electronic exchanges in the district of North Cachar hills of Assam State has been achieved;

if not, the places where the electronic exchanges are to be unstalled in the aforesaid district during the Ninth Plan; and

the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The targets for installation of electronic exchanges are fixed on year to year basis. The target for the 1999-2000 has since been achieved. It is proposed to install electronic exchange at Jattinga in the aforesaid district during 2000-2001.

(c) Following steps are being taken in this regard:

The equipment for the telephone exchange has been arranged.

Necessary action has been initiated to make the infrastructure ready.

Notification of the Telephone Advisory Committee Members

† 199. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the *Minister* of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the names and addresses of the members nominated in the Notified Telephone Advisory Committee at various level in Bihar by the Ministry of Communications alongwith date of such notifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Information *is* being collected and will be laid on the table *of the* House.

Mobile Service in the Country

200. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether Government have a proposal to provide mobile services in some selected cities;

if so, the State-wise details of the cities identified therefor;

the year by which the mobile services would be provided in the entire country; and

the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of the cities proposed for mobile services are in the statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The case for provision of mobile service by Department of Telecom Services (DTS) throughout the country is in process. No time frame has been fixed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.